SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Mandatory Information Assurance/Cybersecurity Awareness

1. Reference: Vice Chief of Staff, Army memorandum, subject: Commander and Leader Responsibilities for Information Assurance Capabilities and Standards Enforcement, 12 February 2012.

2. Cyber attacks threaten Army networks and our information every day, putting our operations and people at risk. As leaders, you are responsible for ensuring Information Assurance (IA) and Cybersecurity practices and compliance throughout your organization. These efforts must be continuous and not simply a once-a-year training requirement.

3. In order to improve the Army IA/Cybersecurity posture, we must change our culture, enforce compliance and ensure that people are accountable for proper security procedures. Beyond required security training, we need you to make certain that all of your Soldiers, civilians and contractors understand the threat they pose to operational security by not complying with IA/Cybersecurity policies and practices.

4. To improve Army IA/Cybersecurity, Commanders at all levels are directed to comply with the following actions.

a. In February, the Army directed all Commands to incorporate Information Assurance into their Command Inspection Programs and to use the IA Self-Assessment Tool, located at https://iatraining.us.army.mil, for assessing your IA posture (see reference above). Within 120 days of the date of this memorandum, you are directed to complete the self-assessment process for your command.

b. Not later than 30 days after completing your self-assessment, you will record your command's three weakest areas in the tracking tool. You will develop a plan of action and milestones to address these weaknesses. The plan also must highlight the importance of individual responsibilities for good IA/Cybersecurity practices. The reporting instructions are posted at https://informationassurance.us.army.mil.

c. No earlier than 180 days after the date of this memorandum, the Army will plan an IA/Cybersecurity Awareness Week. During that time, Commanders will train and teach their respective IA/Cybersecurity awareness programs to their personnel, focusing on security practices and the actions and milestones associated with execution of their command plans.

d. Information Assurance program managers will also complete a detailed validation of the status of base certifications for all Information Assurance professionals and the

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computing environment, as identified in DoD 8570.01-M. IA certification training statistics are captured in the Army Training and Certification Tracking System at https://atc.us.army.mil/iastar/index.php.

e. As part of Federal Information Systems Management Act (FISMA) requirements, command Information Assurance program managers will ensure that system owners conduct and document the annual security review and IA security controls, and test contingency plans for systems posted in the Army Portfolio Management Solution in accordance with FISMA guidelines. The target is 95 percent compliance. Not earlier than 180 days after the date of this memorandum, the Army Chief Information Officer/G-6 will begin reporting through Army Command channels each organization's FISMA compliance and the impact on the Army's overall score.

f. One year after the date of this memorandum, Commanders will assess their respective plans of action and milestones and determine whether any adjustments are necessary for their organization to achieve constant improvement of Information Assurance/Cybersecurity Awareness and security practices.

5. The points of contact for this action are: [redacted] Additional points of contact are available at https://informationassurance.us.army.mil.

John M. McHugh

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